

The Craigavon Two Tier Learning Community

Area based planning, following the Bain Report, currently forms a significant part of DE's planning. Area Learning Communities were established and all post primary schools designated as a member of a particular community.

The staff and leadership of Portadown College is enthusiastic about the benefits of closer collaboration between local post primary schools and is therefore continuing to work, as it has been, ever more closely with the partner Two Tier schools in Portadown and Tandragee, namely Tandragee Junior High School, Clounagh Junior High school, Killicomaine Junior High School and Craigavon Senior High School.

Examples of collaborative activities include joint INSET training days for teachers, leadership collaboration on change management, presentations to parents of Junior High School students by the Headteachers of the Senior Highs and pastoral and academic progress liaison and tracking post transfer.

As in any selective system a number of students may be disappointed by not gaining a place in Portadown College. However, parents and young people should be reassured that the College has the greatest respect for the quality of teaching and learning in Craigavon Senior High School. For those students not admitted to Portadown College at the end of Yr 10 and who follow a GCSE curriculum at Craigavon Senior High, there is increasing evidence that a transfer to Portadown College at age 16 is beneficial given the breadth of A Level provision here.

Portadown College, with a Sixth Form of almost 400 students welcomes students from local schools either because their school has no A'Level provision, or, if it has A'Level provision it is very limited. Those schools are as follows: Markethill High school, Craigavon Senior High School, Portadown Independent Christian School, Drumcree College and Brownlow Integrated School. The College welcomes students of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds.